

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE TUSCAN RIDGE MDP,
BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS**

Prepared for

McMILLIN TEXAS DEVELOPMENT

1175 W. Bitters
San Antonio, TX 78216

Prepared by

Mindy L. Bonine

SWCA ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

4407 Monterey Oaks Blvd.
Building 1, Suite 110
Austin, Texas 78749
www.swca.com

Principal Investigator

Mindy L. Bonine

SWCA Project Number 10844-192-AUS
SWCA Cultural Resources Report No. 2006-95

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ABSTRACT

SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) conducted a cultural resources survey on behalf of McMillin Texas Development of the roughly 63-acre Tuscan Ridge Master Development Plan (MDP) project area located on Bulverde Road north of Loop 1604 in Bexar County, Texas. The tract is currently proposed for residential development, and the work was done in compliance with the City of San Antonio's Historic Preservation and Design Section of the Unified Development Code. SWCA's investigations of the Tuscan Ridge MDP included a background review, an intensive pedestrian survey of selected portions of the project area, and a review of all standing structures within the project area to determine their age and possible significance.

The background review revealed that no previous archaeological surveys were performed within the project area, but four investigations were conducted between 1974 and 1979 by the Soil Conservation Service of the areas around East Elm Creek and the unnamed drainage emptying into Elm Waterhole Creek. Those surveys were less than 150 m away from the project area. In addition, site 41BX68 was found to the south of the project area. It is described as a large surficial lithic scatter of unknown temporal setting. The previous researchers suggested a grid collection, but made no determinations of significance.

During the SWCA field investigation, archaeologists surveyed the roughly 63-acre tract of the proposed Tuscan Ridge MDP, focusing on areas closest to East Elm Creek and site 41BX68, south of the project area. The other areas were not as extensively surveyed due to the disturbances from the establishment of a horse ranch on the property as well as shallow soils and the low probability of intact buried cultural deposits. The pedestrian survey established that the entire project area is an upland setting with no potential for buried cultural resources, including the slopes toward East Elm Creek. SWCA archaeologists did not encounter any remnants of 41BX68 within the project area, and the site does not appear to extend this far north. The architectural survey recorded 18 resources, all associated with a horse ranch; however, only one is certainly over 50 years of age, and one other has some features of a historic building, but is sheathed in modern materials. The overall integrity of the historic-age building has been diminished by modifications over the years, and the building no longer retains its original presence or footprint. Thus, the resource does not retain enough integrity to be significant.

Based on the results of the survey, SWCA recommends that there are no significant cultural resources in the Tuscan Ridge MDP project area. No additional archaeological investigations are recommended.

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

PROJECT TITLE: Archaeological Survey of the Tuscan Ridge MDP, Bexar County, Texas.

SWCA PROJECT NUMBER: 10844-192.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The roughly 63-acre Tuscan Ridge MDP project area is proposed for residential development. SWCA was contracted to conduct an archaeological survey of the project area, as the proposed development would involve various surface and subsurface impacts related to the construction of residential housing, utilities, residential streets, and landscaping. The investigation included a background literature review, an intensive pedestrian survey focusing on section of the project area closest to East Elm Creek and a previously recorded archaeological site, and a review of all standing structures to determine their age and possible significance. The upland areas away from the creek were not intensively surveyed. The goal of the field survey was to identify and assess any significant cultural resources that might be impacted by the proposed residential development project.

LOCATION: The Tuscan Ridge property is an irregularly shaped parcel of land north of Loop 1604 on Bulverde Road, Bexar County, Texas. The project area is in northern Bexar County. The eastern edge of the project area is located along Bulverde Road. East Elm Creek is located just to the west of the property. The project area appears on the Longhorn, Texas USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle.

NUMBER OF ACRES SURVEYED: Approximately 63 acres.

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Mindy L. Bonine.

DATES OF WORK: January 25, 2005.

PURPOSE OF WORK: The client is complying with the City of San Antonio's Historic Preservation and Design Section of the Unified Development Code.

NUMBER OF SITES: None.

CURATION: No artifacts were collected and nothing was curated.

COMMENTS: The project area consists of a rocky upland hill located between two creeks on the east and west, outside of the project area boundaries. No prehistoric or historic archaeological sites were found. About 18 standing structures comprising a horse ranch were found in the project area, but only one appeared to have components over 50 years of age. Another has the appearance of an older building but sheathed in more modern materials. Both have been heavily modified, and no longer retain sufficient integrity to be significant. No further archaeological investigations are recommended.

INTRODUCTION

SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) was contracted by McMillin Texas Development to conduct an archaeological survey of the approximately 63-acre Tuscan Ridge Master Development Plan (MDP #853), located in northern Bexar County, Texas (Figure 1). The investigations consisted of an archaeological literature and records review, an intensive pedestrian survey of portions of the proposed project area, and a review of standing structures in the project area to determine their age and potential significance. The purpose of the investigation was to determine if the proposed residential development proposed in the Tuscan Ridge MDP would affect significant cultural resources and to assist McMillin Texas Development in complying with the City of San Antonio's Unified Development Code. Mindy L. Bonine served as Principal Investigator for the survey, and Kim Kersey, Ernest Wingate, and Mindy Bonine conducted the field investigations on January 25, 2006.

DEFINITION OF STUDY AREA

The Tuscan Ridge MDP is an irregularly shaped 63-acre parcel of land north of Loop 1604 along Bulverde Road, Bexar County, Texas (Figure 2). The eastern side of the property borders Bulverde Road and extends westward towards East Elm Creek, beyond that sits a residential subdivision. Another subdivision is situated to the north of the project area, and undeveloped ranchland is to the south. A large rock quarry is located about 250 m east of the project area on the opposite side of Bulverde Road. The project area is located on the Longhorn, Texas USGS 7.5-minute topographic map.

The entire parcel occupies an upland setting in an area of oak-juniper woodland. The vegetation includes live oak, juniper, mesquite, and persimmon, with an understory of grasses,

cacti, Spanish dagger, agarita, acacia, and greenbrier (Figure 3). The general topography of the project area consists of an upland ridge gently curving from the north to the southwest, with the land sloping downward on the eastern and western sides. The slopes are cut by several small dry upland drainages on either side of Bulverde Road that drain into East Elm Creek east of the project area (running north-south) and an unnamed drainage (running north-south) which empties into Elm Waterhole Creek around the rock quarry. Both East Elm Creek and Elm Waterhole Creek eventually join Mud Creek to the south.

The project area has been occupied for many years, consisting of a former horse ranch. Several residences, stables, and outbuildings are located on the property, along with horse training equipment and horse trails through the undeveloped countryside. Several portions of the project area have been cleared for pasture and separated into at least eight different fields of varying size. Only a few trees remain from the native vegetation cover; short grasses now dominate the fields. A fencing network defines the boundaries of the fields, located between the ranch buildings and Bulverde Road.

Of note is the front entrance, which consists of decorative brick walls and columns on either side of an iron gate. The brick walls are bulky structures that span the distance between two brick columns on either side of the gate and curve away from the entrance towards the street. The brick walls and columns are covered with white paint, and inlaid with 12-x-12 Spanish red clay tiles (Figure 4). Behind the gate, a linear drive leads to the main residence (Building 1), flanked with mature live oak trees (Figure 5), reminiscent of a Southern Plantation entrance. The pasture fields are located on either side of the road.

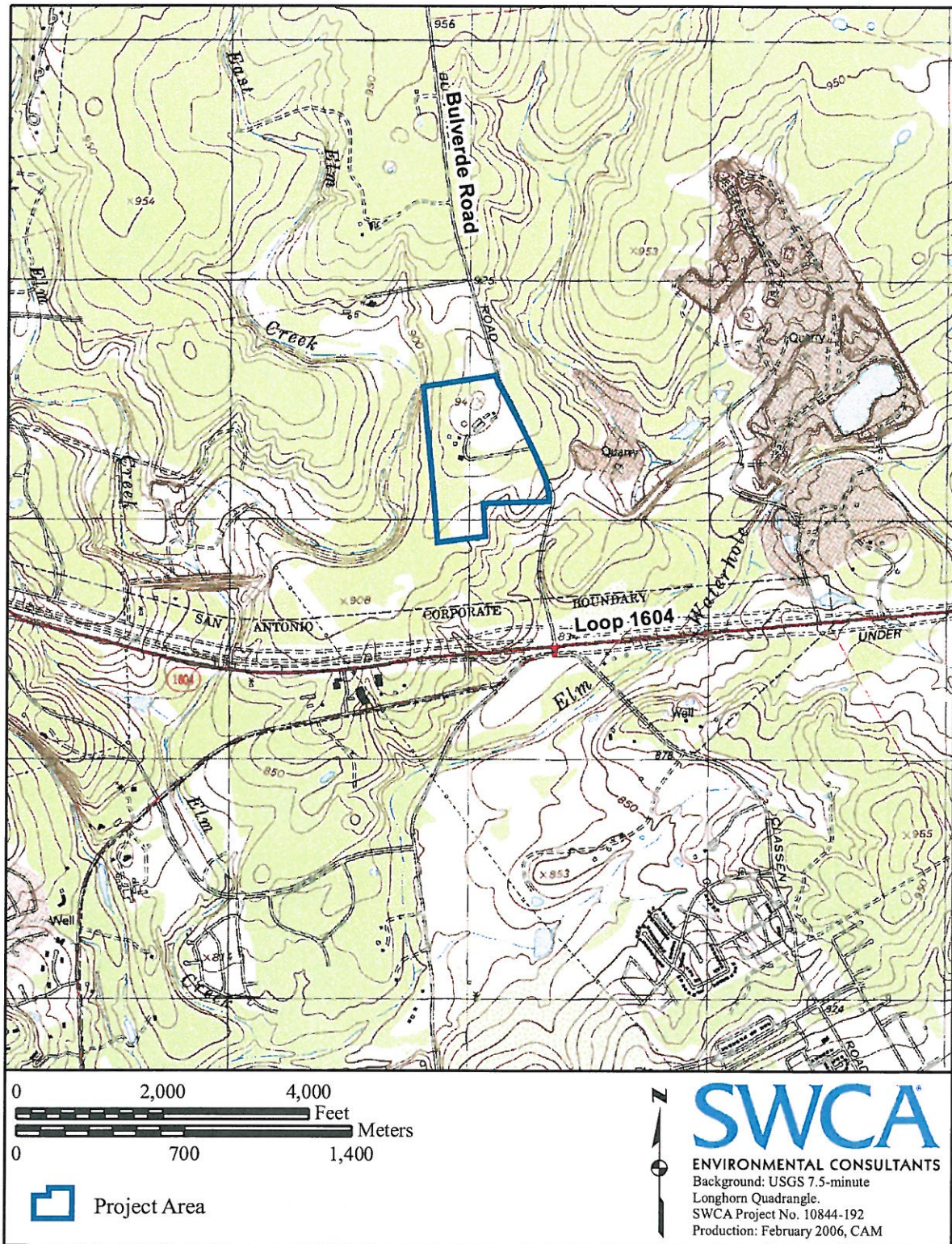


Figure 1. Project location map.

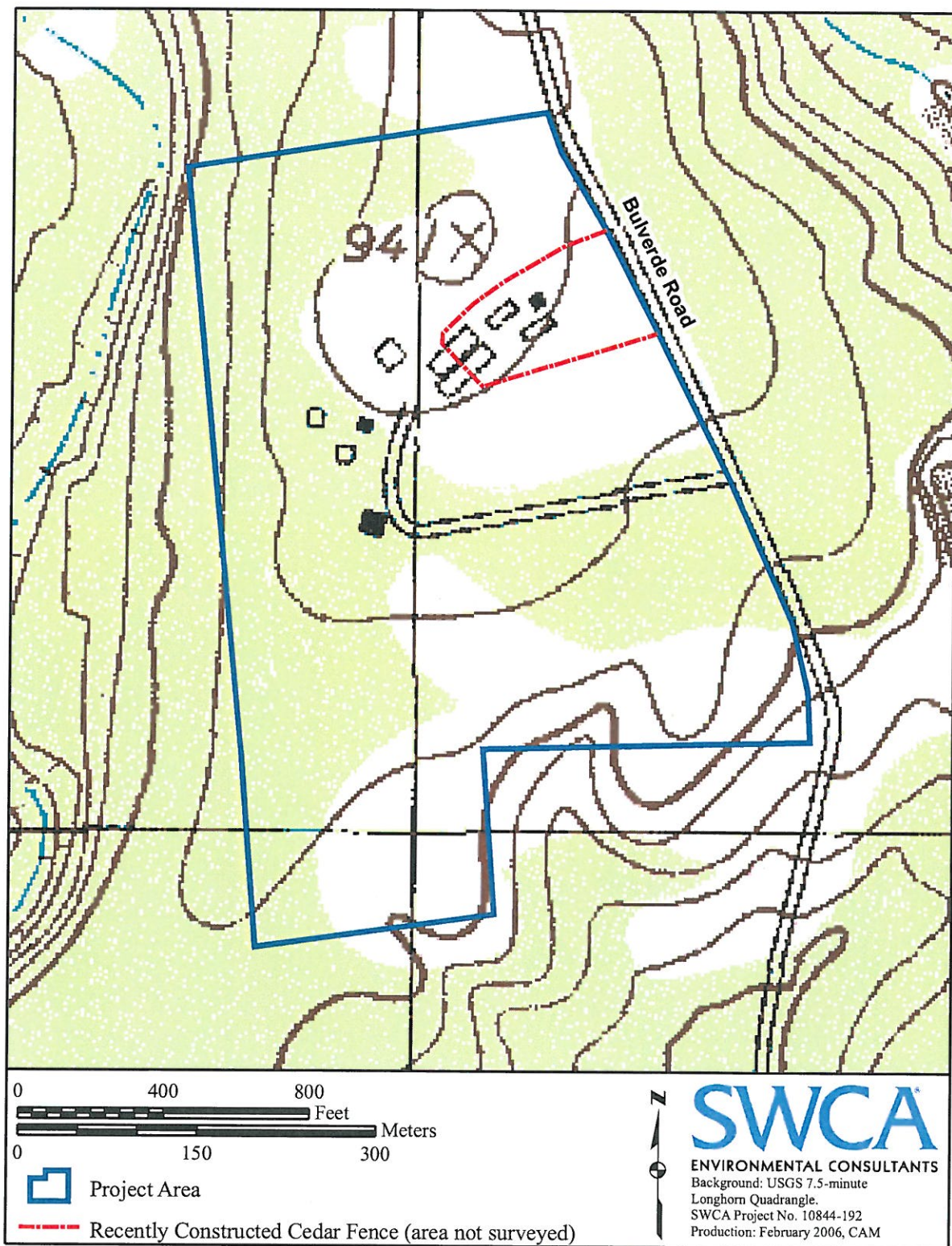


Figure 2. Project area map.



Figure 5. Live oak trees flanking the front drive. Note gate at end of drive.



Figure 6. Brand new cedar fence and limestone support columns dividing the horse ranch complex.



Figure 3. Typical vegetation found within the project area.



Figure 4. Front entrance to the project area.

A portion of the horse ranch complex has been divided from the rest and surrounded by a brand new cedar fence supported by limestone columns (Figure 6). This property is currently the primary residence of the former landowners, and was not surveyed. It has its own entrance, and several of the more modern residences are contained within the fence. It appears from a recent aerial photograph that a large barn or stable was dismantled prior to erecting the fence.

The project area is mapped as Cretaceous-age Edwards Limestone. These limestone deposits are 300–500 feet thick and contain abundant fine- to coarse-grained chert concretions, along with fossils and shell fragments (Barnes 1983).

The majority of the project area is mapped as Crawford and Bexar stony soils, with small sections to the north and east as Tarrant association, rolling. The Crawford and Bexar stony soils are stony clay in texture and shallow to moderately deep over hard limestone. The surface layer is dark gray to reddish-brown, noncalcareous clay to a maximum of 8–9 inches thick. Large portions of these soils contain chert and limestone fragments (Taylor et al. 1962). Tarrant association has complex slopes, and the soils are residual and form shallowly over hard limestone (Garner and Young 1976; Taylor et al. 1962). These stony soils have a low potential to contain buried cultural resources with good integrity.

The project area is located within the Edwards Plateau region, as defined by Gould (1975), and the Balconian biotic zone (Blair 1950). Upland areas are dominated by a mixed live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) and Ashe juniper (*Juniperus ashei*) woodland interspersed with occasional grassy openings. The lower elevation areas, especially along the riparian zone, often include a dense understory of acacia (*Acacia* sp.), prickly pear (*Opuntia leptocau-*

lis), and other brushy species (Petrides 1988; Simpson 1988). Common mammals of the Balconian biotic zone include white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), nine-banded armadillo (*Dasypus novemcinctus*), black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), and deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatis*). In addition, bison (*Bison bison*), mountain lion (*Felis concolor*), and black bear (*Ursus americanus*) would have been present prehistorically (Davis and Schmidly 1994). Bird species composition in the project area is fairly diverse with numerous breeding, migrant, and wintering species present (Davis and Schmidly 1994). In addition to mammals and birds, Blair (1950) lists at least 75 species of amphibians and reptiles within the Balconian Province.

METHODS

BACKGROUND REVIEW

SWCA performed a background records review to determine if the project area has been previously surveyed for cultural resources or if any archaeological sites have been recorded within or near the project area. To conduct this review, an SWCA archaeologist reviewed the Longhorn, Texas USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) and the Texas Historical Commission (THC), and searched the THC's Texas Archeological Site Atlas (Atlas) and site files at TARL. These sources provided information on the nature and location of previously conducted archaeological surveys, previously recorded cultural resource sites, locations of National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) properties, sites designated as State Archeological Landmarks (SALs), Official Texas Historical Markers (OTHMs), Registered Texas Historic Landmarks (RTHLs), cemeteries, and local neighborhood surveys. SWCA also examined

the *Soil Survey of Bexar County, Texas* and the *Geologic Atlas of Texas, San Antonio Sheet*. A review of aerial photographs on the City of San Antonio's GIS Mapping Application, an online resource (<http://maps.san-antonio.gov/website/COSA-Maps/viewer.asp>) was conducted to assist in determining whether any standing structures or features are located on the property and utilized maps and photos.

FIELD METHODS

SWCA conducted a cultural resource survey of the project area to determine the nature, extent, and when possible, significance of cultural resources located within the property boundaries. The survey consisted of three archaeologists first walking through the project area and identifying the locations where shovel testing would be required and where a surface reconnaissance would be sufficient. Particular emphasis was placed on the areas closest to East Elm Creek and a previously recorded prehistoric site outside of the project area boundaries to the south. Archaeologists walked along transects placed at 15 m and then 30 m intervals at the southern end and eastern side of the project area, looking for chert cobbles and surface cultural material. It was determined that neither of these areas contained sufficient depth of soils to warrant shovel testing, and only a surface reconnaissance was conducted. The remainder of the project area consisted of entirely upland shallow soils and ground disturbances such as vegetation clearing, grazing areas, and standing buildings. The upland areas were not as extensively surveyed due to the shallow soils and the low probability of intact buried cultural deposits with good integrity.

As standing buildings were known to exist within the project area from the background review and aerial photographs, these locations were visually inspected to determine the na-

ture of the standing buildings, structures, or objects. The resources were evaluated under the criteria for eligibility to the NRHP, which is used to determine the significance of historic properties. One of the criteria is that the property be over 50 years of age, and this was determined first by any documentation on the construction of the resources, and lacking that information, an evaluation of the built environment, including architecture and site layout, to determine the style and possible age of each building, structure, or object. A recent aerial photograph was used to determine the relationship between the resources, and photographs were taken of the exterior of each resource. Construction methods and materials, building function, and observed alterations were described in field notes. Nearby temporally diagnostic debris was identified to assist with the possible dates of occupation. Sketch plans were made of each resource determined to be over 50 years of age.

In order to determine historic significance, each historic-age resource's integrity, which is the ability of a property to convey its period of significance, was evaluated. This is established by looking at seven aspects: if the property is in its original place, if it retains its original design, if the environmental setting is intact, if the workmanship is visible, if the property evokes a feeling of a particular time, and if the association with past persons or events are present. The property must suitably represent that time period of significance through these aspects to be eligible for the NRHP.

RESULTS

BACKGROUND REVIEW

The background literature review identified 13 archaeological sites within 1 mile of the project area, and the THC records indicated that seven cultural resource surveys have been

conducted within 1 mile of the project area. Of the seven surveys within 1 mile of the project area, four investigations were conducted between 1974 and 1979 by the Soil Conservation Service, of the areas around East Elm Creek and the unnamed drainage emptying into Elm Waterhole Creek. Those surveys were less than 150 m away from the project area. In addition, the archaeological survey of Loop 1604 was conducted in 1971, and site 41BX68 was located at that time (TARL site form). It was revisited in 1974, and the site boundaries were expanded considerably. Site 41BX68 is a large surficial lithic scatter of unknown temporal setting, with observed chert chips, cores, flakes, and rejected artifacts over a 0.5-x-0.25-mile area (TARL site form). No subsurface artifacts were located, and a grid collection was recommended at the site.

FIELD SURVEY

The field survey of the Tuscan Ridge MDP determined that the entire project area occupies an upland setting with no potential for buried cultural resources. Only very shallow rocky upland soils were seen throughout the project area. Exposed limestone bedrock was present in most of the project area and shovel testing was not productive due to the shallow nature of the soils. The lowest elevations in the project area, which includes a slope towards East Elm Creek at the eastern side, also contained very shallow soils.

The intensive pedestrian survey used 15-m and 30-m transects along the southern end of the project area nearest site 41BX68 and did not reveal any cultural material or chert cobbles. Thus it was determined that the site did not extend into the project area. An investigation into the eastern side of the project area nearest East Elm Creek revealed that other than modern trash, no cultural material, either prehistoric or historic, was located in that area. A pedestrian survey of the undisturbed por-

tions of the project area to the north did not encounter any surface cultural material.

The disturbed areas within the Tuscan Ridge MDP were investigated with an architectural survey, which located 18 resources within the project area (Figure 7). Of the 18 resources, however, only one is certainly over 50 years of age, and one other has some features of a historic building, but is sheathed in modern materials. Descriptions of each resource are provided below.

Resource 1 is a single-family residence constructed of a single-story timber frame on a pier and beam foundation (Figure 8). The exterior is sheathed with irregular limestone blocks that have recently been repointed. The steel frame casement windows appear to be original to the house, and one front window contains a large picture-frame opening flanked by smaller steel frame casement windows (Figure 9). An attached garage large enough for two cars but containing two single car garage doors appears to be an addition to the north side of the house. Two front porches set into the house contain both a front door and another entry to the side. A cross-gable roof covers the house; the roof is predominantly a side gable, but punched with cross gables along the bumpouts on the south side of the house and over the picture window and an adjacent round window (Figure 10). The garage is covered with a side gable that matches with the original house on the front but is shorter at the back. The area surrounding the house has been heavily landscaped, containing a fenced-in front area with chain link and stone column supports, a chain link fence at the rear of the house, a stone fountain in the front yard, planting beds and ornamental trees to the north of the house, and a wooden fence surrounding a small area off the garage. The house appears to be the principle residence of the horse ranch, and the style and construction materials points to a 1935–1945 initial build

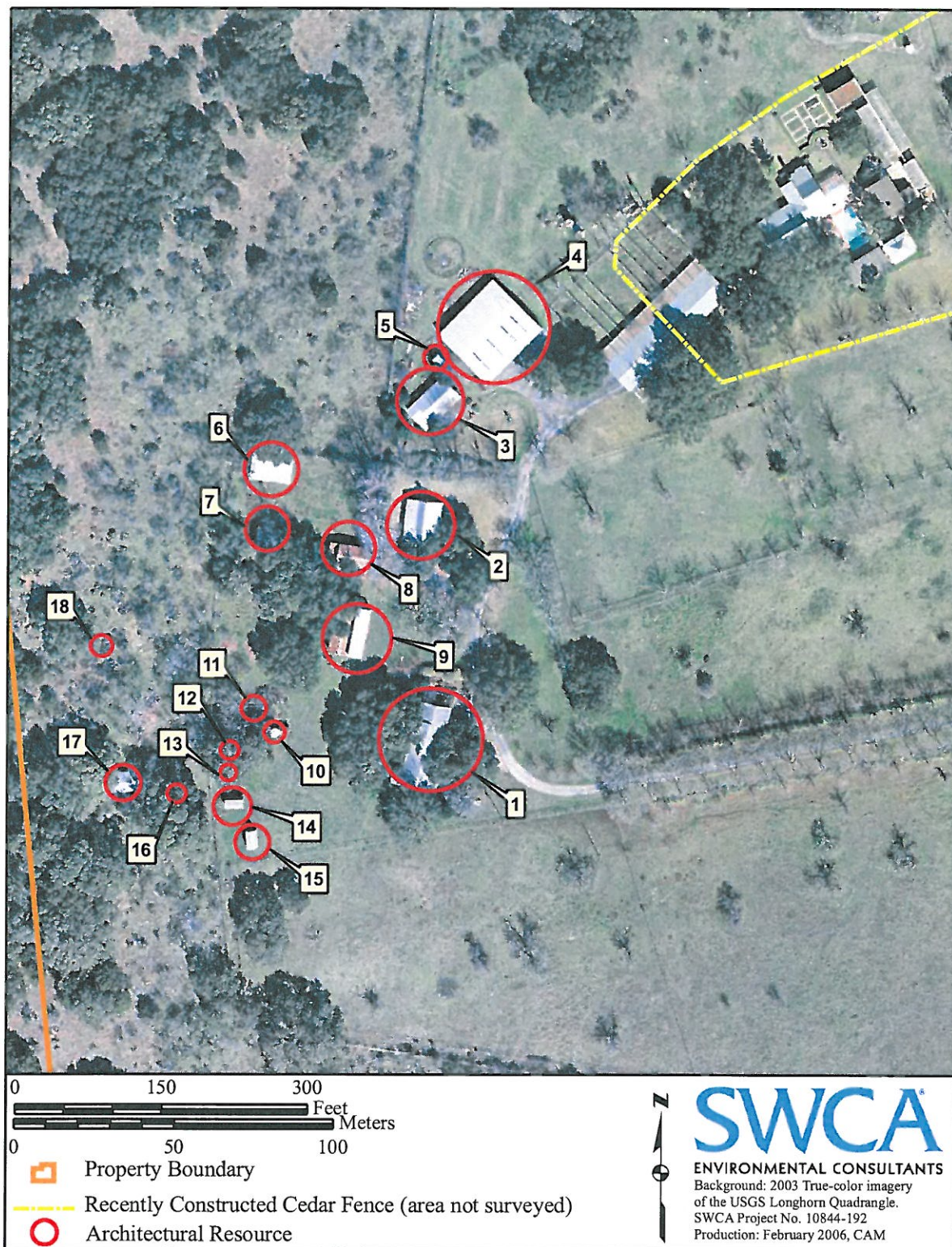


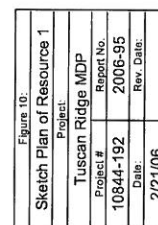
Figure 7. Aerial photograph of 18 architectural resources within the project area.



Figure 8. Resource 1, main residence.



Figure 9. Façade of Resource 1, note the two entranceways flanking the picture window.



SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

4407 Monterey Oaks Boulevard
Building 1, suite 110
Austin, Texas 78749
Phone 512.476.0891 Fax 512.476.0893

date with modifications made in the 1950s and the 1960s.

Resource 2 is also a single-family residence. This house mirrors the classic form of an extended hall and parlor house of the coastal South (McAlester and McAlester 2004), which normally dates from the mid eighteenth century to the mid nineteenth century (Figure 11). The house contains two extended secondary roofs off the principal side gable, one fully enclosed and containing the kitchen and bathroom, and the other covering the front porch and supported by wood columns. Two large chimneys flank either side of the house (Figure 12). The windows, though unusually thin and tall for a residence, are wood frame double-hung sashes and placed symmetrically around the front door. Despite the antique form however, the construction materials indicate the house is much more modern. The structure is placed on a concrete foundation, the exterior is sheathed with rolled-edge pink face brick in a standard running bond, and the roof the covered with new galvanized steel V-groove sheets and trimmed with hardboard (Figure 13). A peek through the windows indicates the interior has modern outlets and a layout in a 1970s style. Although the exact age of the shell cannot be determined, all of the building materials indicate a late twentieth century construction.

Resource 3, another single-family residence in the project area, and looks to be a modern rectangular single-story timber frame structure on a concrete foundation (Figure 14). It is sheathed with painted hardboard, and the side gable roof is covered with V-groove galvanized steel sheets. The windows are single-pane sliding windows with aluminum frames. A covered porch is located at the northeast corner of the building, where the front door is placed. The overall size of the building is 47 feet wide by 24 feet long. The building does

not contain any elements that are older than 50 years.

Resource 4, the largest building in the project area, is a horse stable (Figure 15). It is built with a metal frame superstructure covered with corrugated galvanized steel sheets. The horse stalls are constructed with concrete blocks, some of which make portions of the exterior wall, and the side gable roof is covered with corrugated galvanized steel sheets. A shed-roofed addition is attached to the back of the building, also covered in similar materials (Figure 16). The stable openings consist of garage doors, and several openings were seen in the shed addition. No glass windows were observed, but several rough openings in the building were covered with plywood that could be slid open to let in air. The overall size of the building is approximately 90 feet wide by 64 feet long.

Resources 5, 12, 13, 14, and 15 are all similar buildings, and will be discussed as a group. Each building is a portable cabin, likely to be used by a single occupant. Resource 5 is the most intact of the five buildings, and contains a front façade with an aluminum frame window, steel exterior door, and a porch (Figure 17). The other four buildings either have only a plywood panel door or no door at all (Figure 18). All of the buildings sit on concrete blocks, are covered with plywood and particleboard sheets, and have a gambrel roof reaching to the ground and sheathed in new V-groove galvanized steel sheets. PVC plumbing can be seen under each building, but none are attached to any water or wastewater system. Resources 12 and 13 are in a particularly advanced state of decay. The size of each building is 12 feet wide by 19 feet long, and the porch on Resource 5 is 12 feet wide by 4 feet deep.

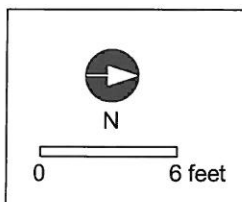
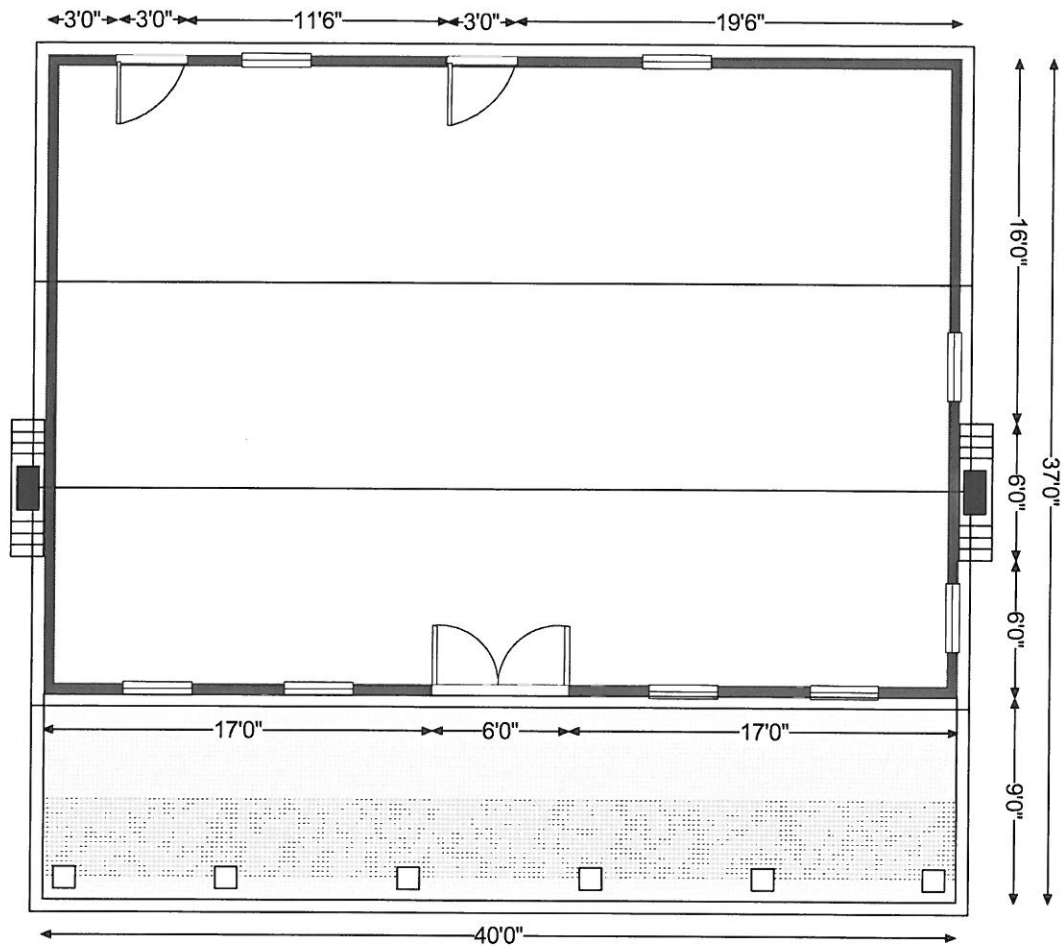
Resource 6 is a barn to house small or mid-size domesticated animals. It is a wood frame



Figure 11. Resource 2, single-family residence.



Figure 13. North side of Resource 2, showing brick, roof, and hardboard siding.



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4407 Monterey Oaks Boulevard
Building 1, suite 110
Austin, Texas 78749
Phone 512.476.0891 Fax 512.476.0893

Figure 12:	
Sketch Plan of Resource 2	
Project:	
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Figure 14. Resource 3, single-family residence.



Figure 15. Resource 4, large horse stable.



Figure 16. Back of Resource 4, horse stable.



Figure 17. Resource 5, portable cabin.



Figure 18. Resource 14, portable cabin.

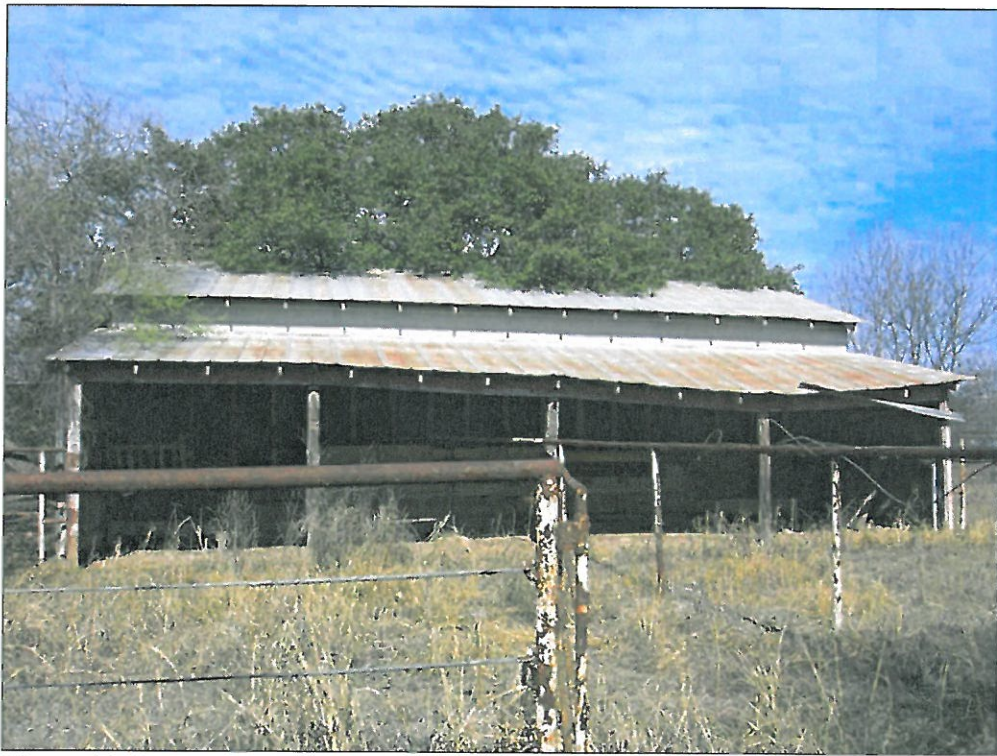


Figure 19. Resource 6, small barn.

building set on concrete forms with a side gable roof and shed addition to the front (Figure 19). The front of the shed addition is open and supported by cedar posts. The top and sides of the building are sheathed with V-groove galvanized steel sheets. The overall size of the building is approximately 30 x 40 feet.

Resource 7 is a small shed opposite Resource 6. It is built on a concrete foundation, and consists of a timber frame rectangular structure with a front gable roof sheathed in corrugated galvanized steel sheets that appear to have been painted. One door opening is also covered with corrugated steel sheets; no window openings were observed. The overall size of the building is 14 x 25 feet.

Resource 8 is also a horse stable, but the extra large stalls and small overall number in the building ($n=2$) indicates this was possibly a birthing stable. This stable is located closer to the residential structures than the large horse stable, perhaps so the residents could keep a close eye on the proceedings. The building is a timber frame structure on a concrete foundation with a gable roof and a wrap-around shed addition supported by cedar posts (Figure 20). The interior stalls are wrapped with wooden planks and the roof of both the gable and shed addition comprises corrugated galvanized steel sheets. Hoppers for storing hay are located along one wall and inside. The overall size is 35 x 28 feet.

Resource 9 is another barn, likely used to store heavy machinery and equipment. The barn consists of an older rectangular building constructed of timber frame on a concrete foundation and sheathed in V-groove galvanized steel sheets. The exterior appeared to have been painted; the paint is currently peeling off (Figure 21). Later, one side of this building was opened up, and another rectangular building was constructed adjacent to the existing building and attached. The newer structure is

built with a steel frame, and covered with corrugated galvanized steel sheets. The building is shed roofed, and had one large sliding door also covered in galvanized steel sheets. One door and one window opening were seen in the older building. The overall size of the building is 50 feet long by 35 feet wide.

Resource 10 is a water tank and equipment storage shed. The water tank is a circular wooden tank with metal straps and a conical galvanized steel roof, sitting on a wooden platform and supported by a steel frame. Around the steel frame, wooden plank walls were constructed to cover the electrical boxes and pumping equipment under the tank, and an addition was attached consisting of a wood frame building set on a concrete pad, wood plank walls, and a gable roof covered in corrugated galvanized steel sheets (Figure 22). Several planks are missing from the building, and the water tank and equipment does not appear to be operational. The footprint of the building is 6 x 20 feet.

Resource 11 is actually a structure, a very large cistern constructed of concrete. The concrete was poured into wooden forms, and a bottom was poured between the walls. The cistern is about 7 feet deep, and 20 feet wide by 30 feet long.

Resource 16 is also a structure—a concrete feeding trough, made by pouring liquid concrete into wooden forms. The trough is about 20 feet long by 6 feet wide, and only about 1.5 feet high.

Resource 17 is an open-sided shed, made with cedar posts set into the ground, a wood frame rafter system, and a corrugated galvanized steel roof. This roof covers an unusual setup of large shallow galvanized steel sinks set on platforms, with drain holes at the bottom, and one large and deep cast stainless steel sink tipped on its side (Figure 23). The operation



Figure 20. Resource 8, birthing stable.



Figure 21. Resource 9, barn.

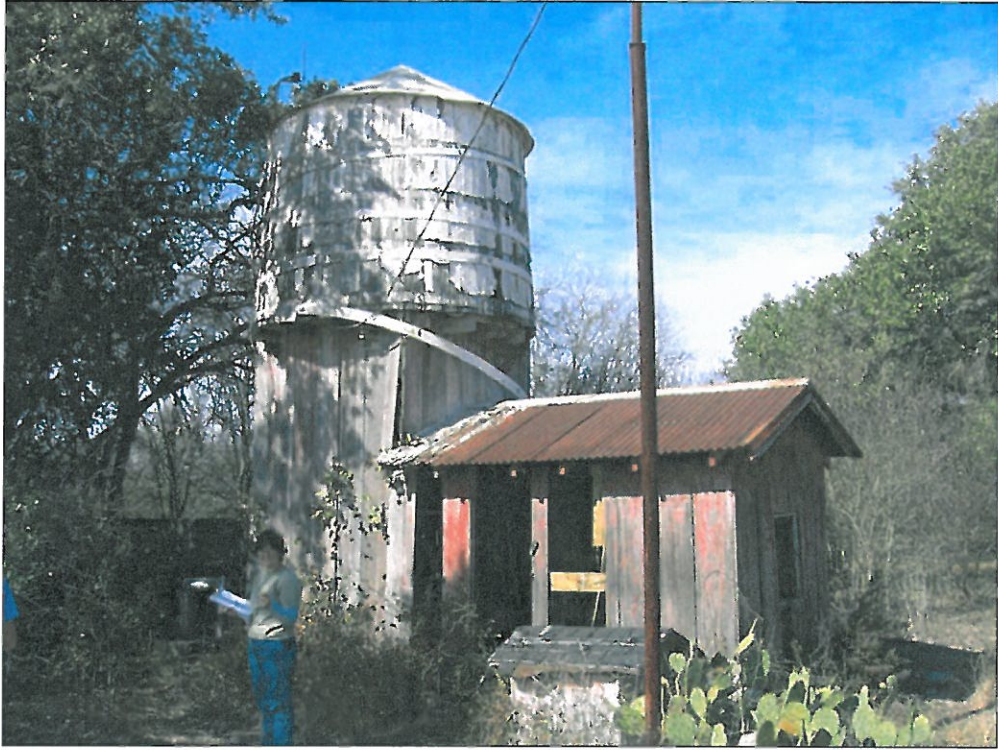


Figure 22. Resource 10, water tank and equipment shed.



Figure 23. Resource 17, open sided shed.

seems to be some sort of washing procedure, but what was being processed is unknown. Only small gravels were seen in the sinks. The building size is 35 x 22 feet.

Resource 18 is a small shack set apart from the rest of the complex. It is a wood frame building set on a concrete pad, covered with weathered corrugated galvanized steel sheets, and a shed roof (Figure 24). One door opening and three window openings were seen, but no glass was visible in the window frames. Wooden planks covered the walls on the interior, and were covered with graffiti in Spanish. The building size is 10 x 16 feet.

In sum, Resource 1 is of historic age, likely built around the late 1930s or early 1940s, and although Resource 2 is of a historic style, much of the building is too modern to consider it a historic resource. All of the other residences are less than 50 years of age. The bulk of the outbuildings directly associated with the horse ranch appear to be less than 50 years old as well, which would indicate that large-scale horse ranching was not this property's first operation. The age of many of the other outbuildings—the barns, water tank, sheds, and concrete structures, could not be determined. Of the resource that is of historic age, the overall integrity of the building has been diminished by modifications over the years, and the building no longer retains its original presence or footprint. Thus, the resource does not retain enough integrity to be significant.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SWCA was contracted to conduct an archaeological survey of the approximately 63-acre Tuscan Ridge MDP located along Bulverde Road just north of Loop 1604, Bexar County, Texas. The work was conducted in compliance with the City of San Antonio's Historic Preservation and Design Section of the Uni-

fied Development Code and designed to determine if the undertaking would adversely affect significant cultural resources. The investigation consisted of an archaeological background review followed by a surface pedestrian survey of the project area. The survey focused on landforms that may contain intact buried cultural deposits, such as terraces and slopes adjacent to East Elm Creek, as well as areas near previously recorded site 41BR68, to see if the site extends into the project area. In addition, an architectural resources survey was conducted within the project area, as standing buildings were known to exist. These resources were evaluated for their age and potential significance.

The background review determined that the project area had not been previously investigated, but the Soil Conservation Service had surveyed both East Elm Creek and a tributary to Elm Waterhole Creek nearby. In addition, one previously recorded site, 41BX68, was located just south of the project area. Site 41BX68 was listed as a large surface lithic scatter of unknown temporal affiliation.

The pedestrian survey established that the entire project area contained extremely shallow soils with a low potential for intact buried cultural deposits. No portion of site 41BX68 was found to extend into the project area, and no prehistoric or historic cultural material was found during the pedestrian survey. Disturbances found within the project area included the construction of several buildings and structures associated with a recently operating horse ranch, sections of land cleared for pasture, and horse trails in the undeveloped portions of the property.

The architectural investigation of the standing buildings and structures found a total of 18 resources associated with a horse ranch operation in the project area. Interestingly, based on an aerial photograph, the complex was for-

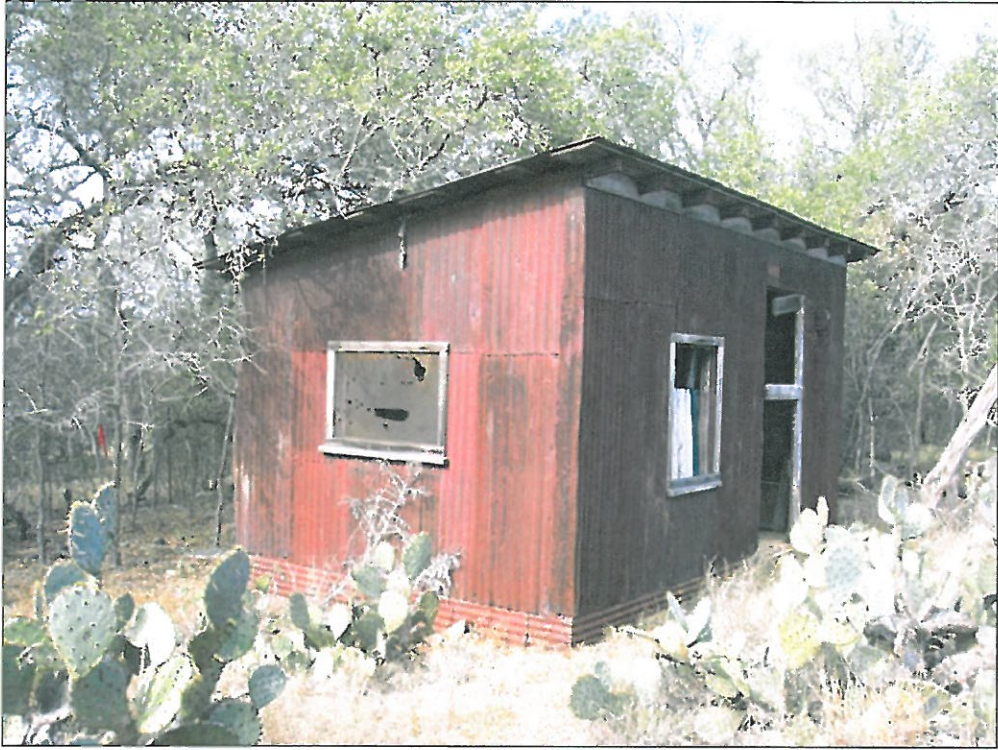


Figure 24. Resource 18, small shack.

merly larger—a portion of the horse ranch complex has been divided from the rest and surrounded by a brand new cedar fence supported by limestone columns. This portion of the complex is currently occupied by the previous landowners and was not surveyed. Of the resources within the project area, one resource, the primary residence, appeared to be over 50 years old. However, it has undergone several changes over the years and does not retain sufficient integrity to be significant. Another residence was stylistically similar to a mid eighteenth century to mid nineteenth century extended hall and parlor house of the coastal South, but as the exterior was sheathed in twentieth century materials, it was interpreted as a newer house replicating an old form. The other resources were either younger than 50 years or were of undetermined age.

As no cultural material, features, or intact deposits were encountered during the pedestrian survey, and none of the historic standing resources are of sufficient integrity to meet the eligibility requirements described above, no significant resources will be affected by the proposed project. No additional archaeological investigations are recommended.

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